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HEY, PROFESSOR TAKEKUMA, IN THIS LESSON WE COVER "SHOJO (GIRLS') MANGA."
YUP.
OF COURSE, SHOJO MANGA IS ALL ABOUT "YOUNG LOVE."
SPEAKING OF WHICH, PROFESSOR TAKEKUMA, WHAT ABOUT YOUR "YOUNG LOVE?"
HRK!
AHEM-
AHEM-
ARRRRGH
AIEEEEEEE

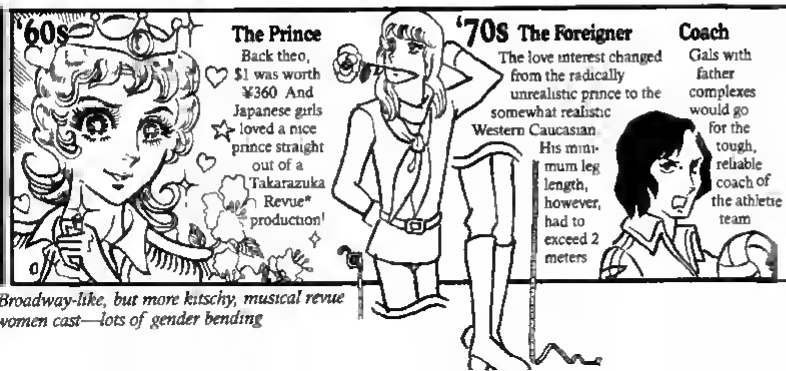
Lesson 9

HOW TO DRAW SHOJO (GIRLS') MANGA

AND SO NOW WE TRY TO DEFINE SHOJO MANGA!!
ARRRRGH
AIEEEEEE
A-AND AFTER YOU READ THIS, EVEN IF YOU'RE A MONKEY YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO DRAW SHOJO MANGA!!

AND NOW, THE GUY THE HEROINE FALLS IN LOVE WITH IS—
THE PRINCE!!
YOU IDIOT!! THE PRINCE WENT OUT OF STYLE, LIKE, THIRTY YEARS AGO. YOU THINK THAT'D BE POPULAR NOW!? IT'S MEANINGLESS IF YOU'RE NOT POPULAR NOW!!
NOW!?
NOW!! THE GUY THAT GIRLS WANT IN SHOJO MANGA NOW IS...

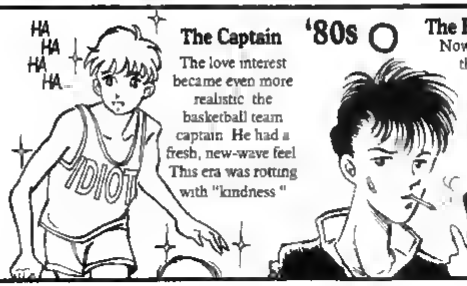
EVOLUTION OF MALE LOVE INTERESTS IN SHOJO MANGA!



The Prince
Back then, $1 was worth ¥360. And Japanese girls loved a nice prince straight out of a Takarazuka Revue* production!

The Foreigner
The love interest changed from the radically unrealistic prince to the somewhat realistic Western Caucasian. His minimum leg length, however, had to exceed 2 meters.

Coach
Gals with father complexes would go for the tough, reliable coach of the athletic team.



The Captain
The love interest became even more realistic: the basketball team captain. He had a fresh, new-wave feel. This era was rotting with "kindness."

The Rebel
Now the prince is pretty much obliterated and the love interest becomes just a thug (not, though, like the one on the right). In keeping with the times, heavenly expectations in shojo manga have come down to earth—and have stooped even lower, so the most desirable guy is a total loser. But no matter how disaffected he is, he must have a "kind heart." This is the golden rule of the male love interest in shojo manga. And right now he is...

...him!!

*Popular Broadway-like, but more kitschy, musical revue with all-women cast—lots of gender bending

NOW, LIKE SHONEN MANGA THERE'S ONLY ONE STORY THAT REALLY WORKS FOR SHOJO MANGA!!
ONLY ONE!?
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU FORGOT TO DRINK YOUR COFFEE!
I'M LATE! I'M LATE!
TP TP TP TP
THE HEROINE SCREAMS, "I'M LATE! I'M LATE!" WHILE RUNNING OUT OF HER HOUSE (BECAUSE SHE'S CLUMSY)!! THERE ARE NO ALTERNATIVES TO THIS BEGINNING!! ANOTHER IMPORTANT DETAIL: SHE HAS TO BE CHEWING ON A PIECE OF TOAST!!
WELL, THAT CERTAINLY SOUNDS INTERESTING!
AIEE
BAM
HEY, THAT HURT!!!
YOU BETTER NOT HAVE THRASHED MY GUITAR, YOU KLUTZ!!
FWIP
I-I'M SO SORRY...!
THEN SHE BUMPS INTO SOMEONE BY MISTAKE (BECAUSE SHE'S CLUMSY)! AND THAT SOMEONE IS, OF COURSE, THE ROCKER!!
OH, YEAH! THE ROCKER!
DING DING DONG DONG
BUT IN THE BEGINNING OUR HEROINE CAN'T STAND THE ROCKER!!
What's his problem? We just bumped into each other! He didn't have to get so angry! What a jerk!
SNIFF
AND WHADDYA KNOW, THE ROCKER IS A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT—JUST LIKE THE HERO IN SHONEN MANGA!!
WHAT!?
WHAM

CLASS, I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO MEET OUR NEW TRANSFER STUDENT, SHO YUKI
Wow he's tall
MURMUR
NOT HIM!!
Hey
he just..
YOU POOR KITTEN... HOW TERRIBLE...
MEOW MEOW
THEN OUR HEROINE GETS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE ROCKER, BUT SHE DOESN'T REALIZE SHE REALLY LIKES HIM. IN FACT, SHE TRIES TO DENY HER FEELINGS! BUT THEN THERE'S A PIVOTAL INCIDENT THAT MAKES HER REALIZE SHE REALLY REALLY LOVES HIM!
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT'S RIGHT! SHE WITNESSES THE ROCKER TAKE CARE OF AN ABANDONED KITTEN IN THE LIGHT RAIN. THE ROCKER ACTS BAD, BUT ONCE SHE FINDS OUT HE'S ACTUALLY KINDHEARTED SHE FALLS FOR HIM!!
HUH!!
AND NOW THE ANNUAL HOMECOMING FESTIVAL IS APPROACHING!! SOMEHOW OUR HEROINE AND THE ROCKER END UP PLAYING THE LEAD ROLES IN A SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF ROMEO AND JULIET!! THE ROCKER DOESN'T REALLY WANT TO, BUT HE TELLS HIMSELF HE'LL DO IT HIS WAY!!
OH JULIET BABY I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU BABY I LOVE YOU BABY JULIET BABY
OH, ROMEO
PITAPAT
AIEE
Clumsy again!
BLUSH
HAHA HAHA
OH ROMEO...
WHY DID YOU...?
I'LL SOON JOIN YOU...
HUH?
BOING
JUST KIDDIN' BABY!
I'M STILL ALIVE JULIET
HA HA
THIS IS OUTRAGE-OUS!!
She really looks upset!
I think shes really crying!
Principal

ANALYSIS OF SHOJO MANGA AS SUMO WRESTLING!!

The Girl in Love Is a Sumo Wrestling Magician!!

The essence of shojo manga is love, and the essence of love is sumo wrestling. The crucial part of sumo is the *shikiri* the toeing-the-mark ritual that precedes the start of every bout in sumo— and so it is in love. Without the *shikiri*, we have nothing. If we have the characters confessing their love and kissing from the get-go then we're pretty much at the end of the story.

Just as before the wrestling commences, you have to have the salt-sprinkling ritual once the wrestlers enter the sumo ring and the second *shikiri* once they're facing each other, love also requires initial pain-in-the-butt stages. An important one is the heroine's salt sprinkling (tears) which has to occur at least three times for every 24 pages of story. With the voltage turned up, you have the hero confess, "I love you" casually. She lets her guard down and then you make your move.

If you're cruel and want to cause another stir, then you can add a *Graduate*-like ending with a *mono-ii* interruption (*mono-ii* is when judges meet to discuss the accuracy of a referee's decision)